

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 04076 230958Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /051 W

-----231001Z 052281 /12

O R 230940Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6346

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA

UNCLAS TOKYO 4076

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECTC PRELIMINARY REACTION TO SUMMIT TALKS

1. US-JAPAN SUMMIT MEETINGS HAVE DOMINATED JAPANESE MEDIA FOR PAST TWO DAYS. NHK CARRIED EXTENSIVE SATELLITE TRANSMISSIONS OF WHITE HOUSE WLECOMING CEREMONY AND DINNER AND OF FUKUDA'S NATIONAL PRESS CLUB SPEECH. IT ALSO CARRIED LIVE FUKUDA'S MARCH 22 PRESS CONFERENCE.

2. DOMINANT THEME IN MEDIA HAS BEEN THAT US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP HAS MATURED INTO ONE OF GREATER EQUALITY IN WHICH OPINIONS ARE EXPRESSED FRANKLY AND DIFFERENCES ARE ACKNOWLEDGED. BUT, WHILE COMMUNIQUE STRESSES COOPERATION, CLOSENESS OF RELATIONSHIP AND MUTUALITY OF INTERESTS, MEDIA PREDICTABLY HAS TENDED TO HIGHLIGHT PERCEIVED DIFFERENCES. MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE OF THIS IS JAPANESE DISAPPOINTMENT OVER FAILURE OF SUMMIT TO RESOLVE NUCLEAR FUEL REPROCESSING ISSUE.

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DESPITE ASSURANCES TO CONTRARY, JAPANESE WITH SCANT RESOURCES SOMHOW FEEL THEY ARE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST ON QUESTION. AGREEMENT TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS AT CABINET LEVEL WAS RELIEF TO BUSINESS COMMUNITY, HOWEVER. SIMILARLY, MEDIA HAS DESCRIBED US ATTITUDES ON BILATERAL TRADE ISSUES, PARTICULARLY COLORTV, AS MORE SEVERE THAN EXPECTED. MARCH 23 AFTERNOON NIHON

KEIZAI NEWSPAPER UNDERSCORED SUCH DIFFERENCES IN FRONT PAGE BRIEFING TO PRESS BY CHIEF CABINET SECRETARY SONODA WHICH DESCRIBED EXCHANGE ON TWO ISSUES AS "HEATED."

3. IN CONTRAST TO TREATMENT OF THESE BILATERAL ISSUES, REAFFIRMATION OF "KOREA CLAUSE" HAS CAUSED LESS STIR THAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN EXPECTED. LIKEWISE, PRESIDENT'S CALL FOR GREATER JAPANESE "POLITICAL" ROLE HAS ALSO BEEN QUIETLY RECEIVED, ALTHOUGH IT HAS RAISED QUESTION IN MINDS OF BOTH BUREAUCRATS AND JOURNALISTS AS TO WHAT EXACTLY PRESIDENT HAD IN MIND. PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL THAT JAPAN SHOULD BE PERMANENT MEMBER OF UNSC HAS BEEN APPRECIATED AS FITTING GESTURE, BUT FEW JAPANESE EXPECT IT TO BECOME REALITY IN NEAR FUTURE.

4. OUR FONOFF COLLEAGUES SEEM TO BE PLEASED WITH RECEPTION ACCORDED FUKUDA AND WITH SUBSTANTIVE PORTIONS OF VISIT. EDITORIALISTS AND COMMENTATORS HAVE NOT GOTTEN INTO HIGH GEAR, HOWEVER, AND THERE WILL BE FURTHER ANALYSIS IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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